

TELLOFAX 21

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ATTACHMENT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

Country: China

Subject: Arrest and Imprisonment of Foreign and Chinese Priests in Shanghai

Place Acquired: -- 25X1X6

Date Acquired:

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Source:

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1. "The news [regarding the missionaries' arrest in Shanghai] came from several sources and seems to add up to this: On the night of 15 Jun [53] at 10 pm, Christ-the-King [parish church rectory] and other religious houses were raided. Armed police and others arrested Fathers Phillips, Gatz, Houle, Palm and Francis Tsu at Christ the King. At Zikawei they closed down the residence of the Mission Superior and the Scholasticate, and took Fathers McCarthy and Clifford, likewise Father Lacretelle to prison. Then they took Father McCormack, MM (Procure), Father Deymiers, CM (Procure) and Father Cyril Wagner, OFM /John Paul Wagner, US citizen/ and a number of other priests (Chinese, I presume). No mention has been made of Bishop Walsh /US Maryknoller/ or any others....We do not know if anything has happened at the other Jesuit Procurations because telephone connections between religious houses have been out.

2. "Meanwhile the people have heard of it. Boys, girls, the whole Catholic population are gathered in front of the residences. The Communists having started the usual smear campaign in the papers about 'special agents' and 'arrested at the demand of the people', the Catholics are gathering in great numbers at all the churches and houses where the arrests were made, saying prayers and singing hymns, and demanding the return of 'the good Fathers who have done no harm'. The Communists were 'forgiven', as 'not knowing what they were doing', but were told that they were 'violating religious freedom and killing the Church in cold blood'. There were shouts of 'Long live Lacretelle and the Jesuits and all the priests of Shanghai!' All this is at Zikawei, where the Fathers under house arrest can hear the Catholic population praying for them. At Christ-the-King the crowds got so large that the streets were forcibly cleared and then barricaded with barbed wire entanglements; in front of the residences police with guns have been posted to keep order.....

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3. "A visitor to Christ-the-King said that only Father Vincent Tsu was left to be custodian there and that the Church was filled with soldiers who were prying up boards and into the walls - to find what, no one knows. It is certain that Father Lacretelle and the six US Jesuit priests are in prison; the other Fathers /at least two US priests among them/ who have been detained, are under house arrest....."

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